

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FSI-01 PER-01 EA-07 EUR-12 /047 W
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R 281055Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3649

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSI TS

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT AT FSI ARABIC SCHOOL

REF: STATE 182565

1. BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER IT WOULD BE WISE REQUEST
GOT APPROVAL FOR ENTRY OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN SERVICE
OFFICER INTO OUR ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL, I WILL NEED
SOME FURTHER INFORMATION.

2. AUSTRALIA IS NOT REPRESENTED IN TUNISIA, AND
AUSTRALIAN INTERESTS ARE HANDLED BY BRITISH EMBASSY
HERE. AMERICAN STUDENTS HAVE, ON STRICTLY INFORMAL
BASIS, BEEN ALLOWED SIX-MONTH DUTY FREE ENTRY OF
HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS AND CAR AND REGISTRATION OF CAR
AS "TECHNICAL STAFF" (NOT CD). STUDENTS ARE ALSO
USING COMMISSARY AND POUCH. WE CAN, OF COURSE,
PROVIDE NONE OF THESE SERVICES FOR NON-USG EMPLOYEES.
ON OTHER HAND, AUSTRALIAN WILL HAVE TO HAVE SOME
KIND OF RESIDENT STATUS, EVEN WF WILLING FOREGO
DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. WHATEVER HIS STATUS, IN
EVENT OF ANY PROBLEM HE WOULD HAVE TO TURN TO
BRITISH EMBASSY, NOT US, FOR ASSISTANCE.
WHETHER OR NOT BRITISH EMBASSY BECAME INVOLVED IN
HIS ASSIGNMENT, THEY WOULD LEARN OF IT, AND IT WOULD
BE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN -- IF ASKED -- WHY
WE COULD NOT TAKE TWO BRITISH FSOS STUDYING ARABIC
HERE AT BOURGUIBA INSTITUTE (WHO AS REPORTED TUNIS
5052 ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THEIR INSTRUCTION). IN
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OTHER WRDS, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP THIS A

UNIQUE CASE, AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON WHAT STATUS DEPARTMENT
WOULD ENVISAGE FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDENT AND WHAT THOUGHT
AUSTRALIANS MAY HAVE GIVEN TO THIS MATTER.
MULCAHY

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